AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A controller for enabling a plurality of audio files to be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system if said computer system is in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, wherein said switch in said first state decouples said controller from said computer subsystem and from an audio integrated circuit (IC) coupled to said computer subsystem, wherein said audio IC is configured to play said plurality of audio file if said switch is in said first state, and wherein said switch in said second state couples said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state; and

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, wherein said drive interface is configured to access audio data on said drive if said switch is in said second state; and

decoder circuitry for providing an audio signal to a speaker so as to play said plurality of audio files if said switch is in said second state, wherein said speaker is selectively coupled to said audio IC and said decoder circuitry according to said state of said switch.

43. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises compressed audio data, and wherein said controller further comprises

decoder circuitry is configured to receive said compressed audio data and to output decompressed audio data.

44. (previously presented) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises a buffer memory for temporarily storing said decompressed audio data.

45. (original) The controller of claim 44, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

46. (previously presented) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises a digital to analog circuit for receiving said decompressed audio data and for generating an analog audio signal.

47. (previously presented) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises an interface circuit for receiving said decompressed audio data and for communicating with an external digital to analog converter.

48. (previously presented) The controller of claim 42, further comprising:

a liquid crystal display (LCD) interface for generating at least one signal to an LCD display,

wherein said LCD display displays directory data associated with said drive.

49. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, further comprising:

a function key interface responsive to a plurality of function keys,

wherein said plurality of function keys ~~generates~~ generate a plurality of user

commands to said controller through said function key interface.

50. (previously presented) The controller of claim 42, further comprising:

a processor for controlling said state of said switch.

51. (previously presented) The controller of claim 43, further comprising:

a processor for controlling said state of said switch and for controlling said

decoder circuitry.

52. (previously presented) The controller of claim 51, further comprising:

a flash memory for storing data and a plurality of commands,

wherein said data and said plurality of commends are used by said processor

for controlling said decoder circuitry.

53. (original) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises

non-compressed audio data.

54. (currently amended) A controller for enabling a plurality of audio files to

be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system if said computer system is

in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, wherein said switch in said

first state decouples said controller from said computer subsystem and from an audio

IC coupled to said computer subsystem, wherein said audio IC is configured to play

said plurality of audio files if said switch is in said first state, and wherein said switch

in said second state couples said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state;

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, wherein said drive interface is configured to access compressed audio data on said drive if said switch is in said second state; and

decoder circuitry ~~configured to receive~~ <u>for receiving</u> said compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data <u>to a speaker so as to play said plurality of audio files if said switch is in said second state, wherein said speaker is selectively coupled to said audio IC and said decoder circuit according to said state of said switch</u>.

55. (previously presented) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises a buffer memory for temporarily storing said decompressed audio data.

56. (original) The controller of claim 55, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

57. (previously presented) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises a digital to analog circuit for receiving said decompressed audio data and for generating an analog audio signal.

58. (previously presented) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry comprises an interface circuit for receiving said decompressed audio data and for communicating with an external digital to analog converter.

59. (currently amended) A method for playing a plurality of audio files in a computer system comprising a computer subsystem, said method comprising:

decoupling an audio controller <u>comprising a switch and a drive interface</u> from said computer subsystem and from an audio IC coupled to said computer subsystem if said computer system is in an active state<u>,</u>

<u>playing said plurality of audio files by said audio IC if said computer system is in said active state;</u>

coupling ~~an~~ <u>said</u> audio controller to said computer subsystem if said computer system is in an inactive state[[,]]<u>;</u>

~~wherein said audio controller is configured to control~~ <u>controlling</u> access and playing of said plurality of audio files ~~on said computer subsystem~~ <u>by said audio controller if said computer system is in said inactive state</u> ~~and wherein said audio controller comprises a switch and a drive interface~~<u>; and</u>

<u>selectively coupling said audio IC and said audio controller to a speaker according to said active state and said inactive state.</u>

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

detecting if said computer system is in said active state; and

detecting if said computer system is in said inactive state.